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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 21, 2019

DEMAND TO REVOKE PERMIT AND UPDATE STATE REGULATIONS

Today we received the first results from EPA ambient air monitoring conducted after the Seal Order was entered preventing Sterigenics from using ethylene oxide. As expected, the numbers have decreased significantly.

The figures released today are telling. We know from the recent Illinois EPA inspection report that product was aerating until February 23. This means there was off-gassing of ethylene oxide until at least that date.

Ethylene oxide has a half-life of up to 300 days, perhaps more. With that long of a half-life, residual amounts of ethylene oxide can remain in the atmosphere even two years later. The EPA confirmed the half-life but cannot explain its significance in these results. What we do know is that Sterigenics is solely responsible for the elevated levels of ethylene oxide in our communities, and that any elevated level is directly attributable to their operations.

Over a quarter million pounds of ethylene oxide is reportedly emitted each year in the U.S. alone. It is clear that there is an urgent need for more stringent state legislation and regulation to protect residents from past and future exposure.

On behalf of the community members and Citizens 4 Clean Air, we demand that the Illinois EPA immediately revoke Sterigenics' permit and draft updated regulations pertaining to the use of ethylene oxide as a commercial sterilizer.

Information available at www.stopsterigenics.com

Please contact StopSterigenics@gmail.com for any media requests

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